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GUIDELINES: PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS AND WORKING PROCEDURES FOR THE EXPORT OF CITRUS FRUIT FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (RSA) TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Version: 4

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Disclaimer: This document serves only as a guideline. It is the responsibility of the user to consult the complete compliance regulation of the concerned country (protocol), for further clarification. Refer to the website of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD):

<https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/images/Branches/AgricProducHealthFoodSafety/PlantProductionHealth/PlantHealth/export-from-sa/specialexportprotocols-prog-dir/thailand/protocol-of-phytosanitary-requirements-for-export-of-fresh-citrus-fruit-from-the-republic-of-south-a.pdf>

1. Citrus types allowed for export

- 1.1 From all production regions, the following citrus types are allowed: Sweet Oranges (*Citrus sinensis*), Lemons (*Citrus limon*), Grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*), and Mandarin oranges (*Citrus reticulata*).
- 1.2 Sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*), all cultivars are allowed.
- 1.3 Mandarin oranges (*Citrus reticulata*), all cultivars are allowed.
- 1.4 Lemons (*Citrus limon*), all cultivars are allowed.
- 1.5 Grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*), all cultivars are allowed.
- 1.6 Limes (*Citrus aurantifolia* and *Citrus latifolia*) are not allowed to be exported.**
- 1.7 A plant import permit is required** from the Thailand Department of Agriculture (DOA) per importer and is to be presented to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development, Directorate: Inspection Services (DALRRD: D: IS) at the phytosanitary inspection point at the time of inspection.

2. Quarantine Pests - consignments will be rejected by DALRRD if any of these live pests are found during phytosanitary inspections (for the complete list – consult the official protocol)

Ceratitis capitata - Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly)
Ceratitis rosa - Natal fruit fly
Thaumatotibia leucotreta - False codling moth
Pantomorus cervinus - Fuller's rose weevil
Delottococcus elisabethae - mealybug
Paracoccus burnerae - Oleander mealybug
Pseudococcus longispinus – Long-tailed mealybug
Tortrix capensana - Pear leaf roller
Scirtothrips aurantii - Citrus thrips

3. Registration requirements with DALRRD

- 3.1 Annual registration of production units (PUCs), pack houses (PHCs), and orchards on the PhytClean system:

<https://app.phytclean.co.za/Citrus/Citrus/GetRegistrations>

3.2 The DALRRD: DIS to conduct mandatory orchard verification, and only after successful orchard verification, the status of the PUCs on DALRRD's website shall be changed from "pending" to "true"

Note: Only PUCs, PHCs, orchards, and varieties on the final approved citrus database (PUC/PHC) for export to the Kingdom of Thailand, will be allowed to export in the 2025 season.

4. Requirements for the management of pests of quarantine importance (monitoring and control) in the orchards and pack house

4.1 Mandatory implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for FCM, Fuller's rose weevil, fruit flies, and other listed quarantine pests

4.2 Pack houses must have a well-documented Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describing in detail all processes related to the grading, handling, and packing of citrus fruit

5. Marking requirements for all cartons

5.1 The following information must be on the business end of each carton:

- Product or produce of South Africa
- Name of exporting company:
- Name of fruit (common name): for example, SWEET ORANGES or MANDARIN ORANGES or LEMONS or GRAPEFRUIT
- Packinghouse code (PHC)
- Production unit code (PUC)

No information about the cultivar should be included on the label

Please verify the PUC, PHC, and orchard number against the approved PUC/PHC database (link below):

<https://www.dalrrd.gov.za, Core business, Agricultural Production, Health and Food Safety, Natural Resources & Disaster Management, Plant Production & Health, Plant Health , Exporting from SA; Citrus.>

The common names and abbreviations should be as follows:

Name of fruit (common name)	Associated code
Sweet Oranges	SW
Mandarin Oranges	MO
Lemons	LE
Grapefruit	GF

5.2 For cartons that are shipped in pallets - only a sticker stating, "EXPORT TO THAILAND" must be affixed on all four sides of each pallet

5.3 No Japan cartons or cartons with stickers of other markets are allowed

5.4 For the fruit in loose cartons (that are not going to be shipped in pallets), the following additional information must appear on each carton "EXPORT TO THAILAND"

5.5 Superimposing of information on labels on cartons will not be allowed (e.g. no sticker on top of another sticker)

- 5.6 All information stipulated as marking requirements in the DALRRD document “Part 1 General Standards and Requirements regarding control of export of citrus fruit”

<http://www.old.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Food-Safety-Quality-Assurance/Export-Standards/Citrus-and-Subtropical-Fruit/Citrus-fruit>

6. Marking requirements for pallets

- 6.1 Sticker with target market code “NI” (Not inspected) must be affixed on all four sides of each pallet and target country code “TH”
- 6.2 ISPM 15 - Mark must be legible and permanent with the correct treatment symbol
- 6.3 ISPM 15 - Date code required on the pallet base
- 6.4 No Bark / No Infestation on pallet bases
- 6.5 ISPM 15 Non-complying pallets will be rejected at pack houses by PPECB and inspection points by DALRRD: IS
- 6.6 No DB mark is allowed on the pallet base

7. Means of conveyance

- 7.1 Citrus fruit can be exported to a designated port in Thailand by sea cargo (containers only)

8. Consignment Size

- 8.1 Minimum consignment size - 5 pallets with maximum 3 PUCs per consignment; 3 pallets must be homogenous (1 PUC per pallet), and 2 pallets may (if needed) be mixed with the 3 PUCs
- 8.2 Minimum of 10 pallets is allowed when all the pallets are from 1 PUC
- 8.3 High cube pallets must be packed at the pack house
- 8.4 No mixed commodities/ species may be loaded in one container e.g. grapefruit and sweet oranges are not allowed in one container
- 8.5 Only same type of packaging is allowed per consignment/container

9. Sampling Procedures

- 9.1 A 2% representative sample shall be randomly drawn at the phytosanitary inspection point from each pallet for each consignment

10. Documentation accompanying the consignments to the phytosanitary inspection points

- 10.1 Original sample accompanying and original intake documents (consignment notes)
- 10.2 Intake document must indicate the target market (NI) and target country code (TH)
- 10.3 No intake documents (consignment notes) are allowed to be issued and stamped by PPECB at intake points, ports or phytosanitary inspection points
- 10.4 Consignments from *Bactrocera dorsalis* (BD)-infested areas require a removal permit according to Regulation R 110. Consignments from BD-free areas, do not require a removal permit according to regulation R 110
- 10.5 Import permit issued by Thailand Department of Agriculture
- 10.6 DALRRD will accept no late applications for phytosanitary inspections
- 10.7 Information on the pallets and cartons must match the information on the documentation.
- 10.8 Ensure correct documentation is presented

11. Rejection Principles

- 11.1 Consignments shall be rejected in South Africa if any of the quarantine pests (alive) are found during the phytosanitary inspection, for non-complying documentation, and for non-complying marking requirements on cartons and pallets (e.g. orchard numbers on documentation not matching orchard number on cartons)
- 11.2 When a consignment is rejected, it may not under any circumstances be repacked and/or represented for phytosanitary inspection for this market or any other special market
- 11.3 **Consignments shall be rejected, and imports shall be suspended in the Kingdom of Thailand if:**
 - Any live FCM and/or fruit flies are found during the phytosanitary inspection
- 11.4 **Consignments shall be rejected in the Kingdom of Thailand if:**
 - 11.4.1 Any of the quarantine pests (alive) other than FCM and fruit flies are found during the phytosanitary inspection, and for non-complying marking requirements on cartons and pallets
 - 11.4.2 Cold treatment was unsuccessful
 - 11.4.3 Container doors are not completely closed or the container number does not match the number on the phytosanitary certificate
 - 11.4.4 Container seal is broken or replaced or does not match the number on the phytosanitary certificate
 - 11.4.6 Temperature sensor extends beyond the fruit or is not located in specified positions or sensor fruit was ruptured
 - 11.4.7 Packaging labelling is missing or incorrect.

12. Shipping requirements

- 12.1 Fruit must be continuously pre-cooled in approved cold treatment facilities for a minimum time period of 72 hours until innermost fruit pulp temperatures reach minus 0.8°C or colder before loading of the container can commence. Additional pre-cooling hours are also acceptable
- 12.2 Calibration of temperature sensors and the loading of the containers must be conducted by the PPECB in the presence of DALRRD: IS
- 12.3 The cold treatment to mitigate fruit flies and FCM shall commence once all fruit pulp temperatures are at or below minus 0.55°C. The cold treatment should be maintained for a minimum of an uninterrupted exposure time of 22 days
- 12.4 This treatment shall not commence until all sensors are reading minus 0.55 °C (31 °F) or below and shall thereafter be maintained at minus 0.27 °C (31.5 °F) or below for 22 days or more. If the temperature exceeds minus 0.27 °C (31.5 °F), the treatment shall be extended one-third of a day for each day or part of a day the temperature is above minus 0.27 °C (31.5 °F) (For example, if the duration of the temperature spike is 1 to 8 hours, then add 8 hours; 9 to 16 hours, then add 16 hours and 17 to 24 hours, then add 24 hours). If the exposure period is extended, the temperature during the extension period must be 1.11 °C (34 °F) or below. If the temperature exceeds 1.11 °C (34 °F) at any time, the treatment is nullified.

13. Phytosanitary certificate

- 13.1 A phytosanitary certificate must accompany every consignment and shall be issued with the following additional declaration:
 - “The consignment of citrus fruit was produced and prepared for export in accordance with the conditions for the import of citrus fruit from South Africa to Thailand”
- 13.2 Certificate of calibration for in-transit cold disinfestation treatment in self-refrigerated container must be attached to the phytosanitary certificate which accompanies the consignment

- 13.2 Documents required for issuing of phytosanitary certificates: PPECB original export certificate; signed and stamped PPECB addendum; DALRRD passed accompanying document; PPECB in-transit cold treatment certificate stamped and signed by DALRRD.
- 13.3 PPECB in-transit cold treatment certificate with the temperature downloads and Q31 - PPECB loading report should be submitted to your nearest DALRRD: IS office before you submit a phytosanitary certificate
- 13.4 Common name of the citrus fruit as well as the seal number, container number, and import permit number must be inserted on the phytosanitary certificate